



HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES

351 North Mt. View Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0010
(909) 387-6280 • (800) 782-4264 • TDD (909) 387-6359 • Fax (909) 387-0102

MARGARET D. SMITH
Interim Public Health Director

PAULA MEARES-CONRAD
Interim Assistant Director of Public Health

MARGARET BEED, MD
Health Officer

Contact: Terri Williams
Program Manager,
Environmental Health Services
(909) 841 - 6894

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISES SAFE FOOD PRACTICES

San Bernardino - Residents returning to their homes in the mountains are receiving a handy re-entry kit with safety information, resource contacts, and materials. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services (EHS) is distributing helpful tips to protect health related to food safety, waste disposal, and contact with wildlife.

The kit includes a mask, gloves, and garbage bag for clean-up of food that has spoiled due to power outages. "If you're not sure how long the power was out, throw it out," cautions Terri Williams, Program Manager with EHS. Foods like milk, cheese, meat, and leftovers, are at high risk of causing illness if not kept cool in the refrigerator. The mask and gloves are important tools that make it easier to use safe food handling practices. Special refuse bins have been set up for spoiled food and garbage. They are at sites convenient to residents in each community. A list is provided in the re-entry kits that are available at local Fire Stations. Williams says the best way to prevent the spread of illness is to wash your hands, especially after being in contact with contaminated items.

EHS is inspecting 384 food operations in the mountain areas affected by the fires. Inspectors are checking to ensure safety before these businesses will be allowed to reopen to the public. Residents returning to homes have safe water to use. There is no order to boil water for any of the evacuated mountain areas.

For more information, go to the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health website at www.dph.sbcounty.gov/dehs/.

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